

The 10 Faces of OJEN

Guylaine Bernard



When it came into existence in 2002, OJEN's first priority was to provide support to secondary school teachers who were delivering Law curriculum. Later, when Civics was introduced as a mandatory half credit, OJEN expanded its scope to also include Civics teachers. Currently teachers in a variety of other subject areas including Media Studies, Family Studies, Business and English as a Second Language, find OJEN's high quality teaching materials invaluable classroom aids. More than 400 resources are available free to download from OJEN's website with more added every year. They are available in both English and French

Guylaine Bernard, a Law teacher with the Eastern Ontario French Public School Board, is enthusiastic about OJEN's French language teaching resources. She uses many of them in her classroom regularly.

"I always use a mock trial scenario from OJEN's website with my Grade 12 Law classes," says Guylaine, "I assign different roles to the students, everything from judge to the accused. The kit that comes with the scenario explains everything very well. The students truly enjoy the activity."

Guylaine's classes enjoy mock trials so much, in fact, that they participate each year in OJEN's French Mock Trial Tournament at the Ottawa Courthouse. The tournament, which has been running since 2009, brings together students from other Ottawa area French schools for an opportunity to try out their newly acquired skills in front of a real judge.

"I've also gone to OJEN to find lawyers to come into my classroom to participate in mentoring sessions with the students," she says.

OJEN's justice sector volunteers are available on request to discuss a wide variety of topics with high school classes through its regional committees. The Ottawa OJEN Committee works with OJEN staff to recruit French speaking justice professionals who can fill requests from teachers throughout the province.

"I often go to the OJEN website to find activities for my classes," Guylaine says. "There are lots of activities for students that are very good. I don't think enough French language teachers realize there are all of these wonderful resources available through OJEN."

In part to address this concern, Guylaine became a member of the Ottawa OJEN Committee last year. Since then she has contacted other French language school boards to promote OJEN's French language programs and resources. She also participates in planning Law Institutes for Teachers, which provide teachers opportunities to learn from experts in different areas of law. Look for details of the 2013 Ottawa Law Institute for Teachers in the months ahead and check out the newest French language teaching resources at www.roej.ca.

